

# Grammar and exercises

## Chapter I

### NB

- 1 In Latin the verb often comes at the end of its sentence.
- 2 Latin has no word for **the** (definite article) or **a** (indefinite article); you must supply these in English as the context requires.
- 3 Latin does not always express the subject, e.g. **labōrat** by itself can mean 'he/she works'.
- 4 Latin has only one form for the present tense, e.g. **labōrat**; English has two forms, e.g. 'she works' and 'she is working'. In translating from Latin, choose the form which is appropriate.

The captions illustrate two different patterns of sentence:

- 1 (someone) (is doing something), e.g.

**Scintilla labōrat** Scintilla is working.

In sentences of this pattern the *verb* (**labōrat**) describes the action of the sentence, the *subject* (**Scintilla**) tells you who is performing the action.

### Exercise 1.1

*Translate the following*

- 1 fēmina festīnat.
- 2 puella cēnat.
- 3 Scintilla intrat.
- 4 Horātia nōn labōrat.

The second type of sentence illustrated in the captions is:

- 2 (someone) is (something), e.g.

**Horātia est puella** Horatia is a girl.

**Horātia fessa est** Horatia is tired.

In sentences of this pattern the verb (**est**) does not describe an action but simply joins the subject (**Horātia**) to the completing word: Horatia is –.

To complete the sense a completing word (called a *subjective complement*) is required. The complement may be either a noun, e.g. **puella**, or an adjective, e.g. **fessa**.

### Exercise 1.2

*Translate the following*

- 1 Scintilla fessa est.
- 2 puella laeta est.
- 3 cēna nōn parāta est.
- 4 Scintilla est fēmina.